Human scavenging at stations

2376. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that human scavenging is banned in the country;

(b) if so, what actions are taken to clean the Railway Tracks all over the country; particularly, at the Railway Stations;

(c) why manual scavenging is being allowed to continue in the Railways inspite of ban under the Central Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At major stations, washable aprons have been provided on concerned platform lines, which are cleaned with water jets. On ballasted track, night soil is allowed to decompose.

(c) There is no manual scavenging on Indian Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of regular trains on Vasai-Deeva-Panvel line

2377. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to connect sub-urban areas to Mumbai city, there is only one shuttle train in a day;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that daily commuters have to face a lot of troubles and inconvenience;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to introduce regular trains connecting all the stations on Vasai-Deeva-Panvel line; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present, one pair of passenger train *i.e.*